



Protecting your good name

PERSONAL IDENTITY PROTECTION SAFETY TIPS

Each year, countless people fall prey to those who would take advantage of their good name and credit. Identity theft can have a devastating affect on those who fall victim, and it can take years to resolve. Don't become a victim of identity theft– *PREVENTING IDENTITY THEFT*

Here are 11 ways you can help prevent identity theft from happening to you:

1. Carry your Social Security Card, birth certificate, or passport **ONLY when you need it.** (To report fraudulent use of your SSN, call **1-800-269-0271.**)
2. Ask that your name be removed from being **rented by** credit reporting bureaus: **EWUIFAX (888) 525-6285, Experian (888) 397-3742, TransUnion (800) 680-7289 or (888) 567-8688 for all three.**
3. Install a **LOCKED MAILBOX** at your home/business or **rent a P.O. box** to foil mail thieves.
4. When ordering new checks, **pick them up** at the bank instead of having them delivered to your home.
5. When you pay bills, **don't leave the reply envelopes in your mailbox** for the postal carrier to pick up. (If stolen, checks can be altered and cashed.)
6. Reduce the number of credit cards you have and use **to a bare minimum.**
7. **Keep a list of your credit cards,** their account numbers and expiration dates, and the telephone numbers of each Credit Card Customer Service Dept. in a safe place so you can call quickly if a card is stolen. You may also want to consider **registering with a service such as Sentinel** where information on all your credit cards is maintained and the company notifies for you in the event of fraudulent use or if the card is stolen.
8. **Never give your credit card number or other personal information over the phone,** unless you have a trusted relationship with the company and you have placed the call.
9. **Order your credit report once a year** from each of the three credit card bureaus above to check for inaccuracies and fraudulent use of your accounts.
10. **Always take credit card receipts with you** and save them to match against actual bills you receive. After bills are paid, shred bills, invoices, statements, receipts, or other material you don't keep on file to avoid having them retrieved by thieves.
11. **Watch the mail when you expect a new or reissued credit card.** Contact the issuer immediately if the card doesn't arrive and contact your credit card company immediately, anytime you have lost or suspect fraudulent use of a card.

**For more information on how to keep your personal identity safe,
contact your DBH Safety Coordinator (909) 873-4475.**